

Nicholas Yonge Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ending April 30th 2020

Constitution & Status

The Society is an unincorporated body and a registered charity, number 802393. Its main address is that of the Secretary at Deeping, Ashcombe Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1NU.

The Committee of Management (Trustees) is empowered to act as necessary in order for the Society to achieve its objects..

The objects of the Society are to advance the study of music, and in particular to promote an annual series of concerts.

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit.

Aims of the Society,

The NYS continues to pursue its aim of presenting high quality performances which provide a pleasurable cultural experience. Five concerts, involving internationally known artists, are organised for members and guest non-members. The Concert Secretary, in consultation with artists, agents and the Committee, arranges for a wide range of composers and instruments to be heard. Young musicians are given the opportunity to perform to live audiences thus developing their technique and musical repertoire. The Society favours trios, quartets and small ensembles with an occasional piano soloist, or singer. Programme notes are produced by members of the Society. Musicians often introduce some of their pieces with additional information.

East Sussex College (formerly South Downs College) in Lewes, is the venue for all concerts. Pianists attending the College Performing Arts Department can use the piano jointly owned by the College and Nicholas Yonge Society. From 2012 the piano has been loaned each year to the Lewes Chamber Music Festival.

The Committee is conscious that concerts must be affordable and any increases are only implemented in order to continue to afford first-class artists' fees. The membership subscription is fixed as sixty five pounds for the usual five concerts, for the 2019-20 season. Some members add a generous donation to their subscriptions and some opt to become a sponsor, which offers some extra privileges. Since October 2012, the Society has been a member of Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, whose ticket scheme aims to attract young people to chamber music. People aged eight to twenty five can attend concerts free; Cavatina reimburses the Society for each young person who attends. Information about this scheme has been circulated to schools, colleges and music teachers in the area. Discounts are offered to some other music societies. For publicity, newsletters are sent out on line ten days before concerts.

Review of the Year

The 2019-20 season opened in October by the **Esmé String Quartet**, who came to us as part of their prize-winners' tour from the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. They have since gathered more distinctions. The extremely popular **Fitzwilliam String Quartet and Lewes pianist, Nancy Cooley** followed in November. The quartet gave a programme of entirely English music. The January concert was given by the **Carducci Quartet, with pianist, composer, and singer, Kate Whitley**. The Carduccis have a reputation for contemporary repertoire. Kate Whitley is a composer with a strong, distinctive voice. In February the exciting young group, **Ensemble Solaire Wind Quintet** was the last to perform for NYS this season. **Trio con Brio Copenhagen** had been engaged to return to Lewes in March, for the final concert of the season, but because of the Coronavirus pandemic, their concert was cancelled.

Committee of Management

The following have served on the Committee during the year: Chris Darwin (Chairman), Janet Lyle (Secretary), Andrew Sharp (Treasurer), Jeremy Boyes, Mandy O'Keeffe, Louise Monaghan, Revd. Stephen Terry.